

TESTIMONY OF

THE HONORABLE ROBERT A. BRADY
A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA

BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
ON THE NOMINATION OF

WILLIAM J. BOARMAN, OF MARYLAND,
TO BE PUBLIC PRINTER

MAY 25, 2010

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the President's nomination of William J. Boarman, of Maryland, to be Public Printer. I can frankly think of no one better suited to take over the GPO right now.

As chairman of the House Administration Committee and vice-chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, it has been my pleasure to work with Bill Boarman for several years on many GPO-related matters. My staff and I have long considered him a tremendous resource for all questions about GPO, and it's clear why: Bill Boarman has worked in and around GPO for decades, giving him an institutional memory and personal experience that will serve him well in the top job.

Bill can remember when GPO employed more than 8,000 workers as the largest industrial employer in the District of Columbia. In the years since, Bill has seen the many changes that bring us to today's GPO, which employs 2,400 men and women committed to accomplishing the GPO's mission. His acceptance of the nomination demonstrates his continuing commitment to GPO and his testimony revealed how his experience gives him a clear vision for where to lead GPO from here.

Although Congress years ago by law gave GPO a virtual monopoly over federal-government printing, in practice GPO does not wield monopoly power and certainly cannot behave like a monopolist. GPO must please its agency customers without whom there would be no work and the American people, without whom there could be no GPO. Agencies increasingly have options, including the option not to print many documents at all. Bill understands that GPO must keep costs down, keep customers happy by serving them in a timely way delivering the goods and services they need.

In his testimony, Bill mentioned his strong support for GPO's procurement program. Most Americans are likely unaware that GPO buys more than 70% of its printing from the private sector. Pennsylvania, which I have the honor to represent, happens to be home to many private-sector printers, many of them small, who bid on individual printing jobs through the GPO. The printing industry benefits, the GPO benefits, and the taxpayers benefit from competition among thousands of printers. Bill reiterated his commitment to the program and a determination to strengthening it wherever possible.

I am also pleased to hear of Bill's commitment to the Federal Depository Library Program designed in 1962 to serve a very different world. Bill expressed his eagerness to work with the FDLP's constituency and the Congress, including my committee, to transform the program into one that works for the patrons, librarians, and taxpayers of the 21st century.

Finally, I support Bill Boarman's nomination because of his longstanding interest in the men and women of GPO, who are essential. More than a dozen labor unions represent GPO employees in various trades and crafts. Bill's association with the labor movement will give him a wonderful perspective on how GPO management and labor might forge a genuine lasting partnership for the benefit of GPO, its customers, and taxpayers.

Mr. Chairman, the President has made an excellent choice in Bill Boarman to be our next Public Printer. I look forward to working with him and respectfully urge the Senate to confirm the nomination without delay.

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